

# Personal Impressions of Single Tax Progress In Denmark

CHARLES O'CONNOR HENNESSY AND ANNA GEORGE DE MILLE AROUSE  
ENTHUSIASM OF NOTABLE GATHERING AT COMPLIMENTARY  
DINNER IN NEW YORK

AT the Hotel Belmont, on October 28, about one hundred and fifty Single Taxers and their friends gathered in honor of Charles O'Connor Hennessy and Anna George de Mille, in recognition of their work at the Copenhagen Conference and the formation of the new International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade, of which Mr. Hennessy is Provisional President. The large banquet hall was too small to accommodate all those who made application for tickets, and many filed in after the dinner was over and the speaking began.

A notable committee, consisting of Samuel Seabury, Amos R. E. Pinchot, George L. Record, Lawson Purdy, and Frederick C. Leubuscher were sponsors of the dinner.

It was a tribute worthy of the occasion. No more distinguished gathering has taken place in Single Tax circles in years. At the speakers' table were Hon. Samuel Seabury, Charles T. Root, president of the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation, Hon. George L. Record, Hon. Lawson Purdy, Hon. Frederick C. Howe, and the guests of the evening, Hon. Charles O'Connor Hennessy and Anna George de Mille. Frederick C. Leubuscher was the very efficient toastmaster.

It was gratifying to see so many familiar faces, undoubtedly brought together by the prospect of renewed activity for the great cause. It so happened that this night was the anniversary of the death of Henry George, which occurred early Friday morning, October 29, 1897. No more fitting tribute could have been made to our great leader than this gathering assembled to hear the message brought from Denmark by the daughter of Henry George. Those who listened to her account of the great procession which accompanied her when she laid a wreath in memory of her father on the Liberty monument must have been thrilled to know that in this forward looking little country the message of our great leader has made such remarkable progress. For not alone the leaders of thought in that country, the statesmen who are to guide her destinies, are committed to our principles, but the great body of the "housemen," the small peasant farmers, know and revere the name and the teachings of the great American economist. And this message was supplemented by a recital more in detail of the prospects for a continuous progress in Denmark along our lines from the other guest of the evening, Charles O'Connor Hennessy.

Nor were the other speeches less inspiring. It was good to hear Judge Seabury reiterate his faith in the principles with much of his old time vigor. Lawson Purdy told the diners, with a touch of humor, of the early days of the movement and Frederick C. Howe dwelt upon the fact that a knowledge of the Georgian principles had kept so many men clear of vision and unflinching in their faith in human progress.

## MESSAGES OF REGRET

Mr. Leubuscher, in opening the proceedings, read some notable letters and telegrams of regret. Louis F. Post wrote from Washington:

"Very much do I regret my inability to attend the complimentary dinner in honor of Mr. Hennessy and Mrs. de Mille upon their return from the International Conference at Copenhagen. Attendance in person being impossible, I take advantage of this opportunity to send a letter of greeting.

"From across the ocean I get the highest kind of expressions of favorable appreciation of Mr. Hennessy's abilities and useful service as presiding officer of the Copenhagen Conference. Also of Mrs. de Mille's brilliant participation in the proceedings. It is gratifying to me, too, to be among those who welcome the international organization which is developing out of that conference.

"An organized international body that recognizes Henry George's fundamental principle of common rights to natural resources; that adopts his progressive method of securing those rights by substituting gradually for confiscatory taxes on production compensatory taxes on land in proportion to its value; and that advocates free trade in the interest of economic development throughout the world, and therefore in the interest of world peace, —should be welcomed not only by every disciple of Henry George, but by every other thoughtful citizen of any nation who cares more for his country than for opportunities to live parasitically upon the labor of his fellow citizens."

Major George Haven Putnam, President of the American Free Trade League, wrote:

"I am sorry not to find myself free to be present at the dinner that is to be given on the evening of Thursday, October 28th, in honor of Mr. Hennessy and Mrs. de Mille. I have a speaking engagement out of town for the same evening. The recent statement from the group of pub-

licists in Europe, the plan for which originated in our Cobden Club Committee, is bringing fresh attention to the importance of breaking down tariff barriers if civilized relations are to be maintained among the nations."

A telegram from Detroit, from Harold S. Buttenheim, editor of *The American City*, said:

"Absence from New York, much to my regret, prevents attendance at dinner to Senator Hennessy tonight. It would have given me real pleasure to join in this well deserved tribute to one for whose services to mankind I have the highest respect, and among whose friends it is a real honor to be numbered."

Other regrets were from Hamlin Garland, Raymond V. Ingersoll, Dan Beard, Edwin I. Jones, Bolton Hall, Lewellyn E. Pratt, George L. Rusby, Mrs. Edith Hibbard and others. There was a cablegram from the Secretariat of the London headquarters of the International Union for the Taxation of Land Values and Free Trade, signed by John Paul and Arthur Madsen, who also forwarded compliments to Mr. Hennessy from the editor of *Grundskyld*, the organ of the Danish Georgeists.

#### MR. LEUBUSCHER'S ADDRESS

Mr. Leubuscher, in his introductory address, stated that, possibly excepting the banquet tendered to Tom L. Johnson in 1910 upon his return from England, this dinner had brought together the most distinguished body of Single Taxers gathered together since the death of Henry George. He alluded to the happy coincidence that he had acted as toastmaster at the Johnson Dinner. Proceeding, he said:

"Single Taxers sometimes say that it is not good policy to associate the doctrine of the land for the people, the doctrine that the economic rent of land that is the creation of all the people, belongs to the people,—to associate that doctrine with the philosophy of free trade. These people forget that the sturdiest blows ever struck at the fetish of Protection were struck by Henry George in his great work 'Protection and Free Trade.'" (Applause.)

"And so this great International Conference at Copenhagen by unanimous vote adopted resolutions that were sent to the Secretariat of the League of Nations at Geneva in favor of absolute and unqualified free trade. (Applause.)

"It is evident that that declaration was most timely,—for only a few days ago we saw big headlines in the newspapers announcing that the great bankers and industrialists of sixteen nations had made an appeal to the world to overthrow all tariff barriers, as a means of bringing peace and prosperity to the world. The question of the land for the people, the question of free land and free trade, are being discussed in the world as never before as a possible remedy for after-war ills. Now, to my mind the greatest event of the year 1926 was this International

Conference at Copenhagen in July. After going through a fine programme lasting about a week, the Conference, representing many nations, decided to form an International Union for the Taxation of Land Values and Free Trade. It is no longer a local or even a national movement, but an active international organization, and as such has increased and is increasing the respect of mankind for the philosophy of Henry George. That is why I say it was one of the great events of the year 1926.

"In 1897 Henry George was a candidate for Mayor of this city for a second time. On his campaign committee was a young lawyer who had been or was soon thereafter President of the Manhattan Single Tax Club. That young lawyer has become a great lawyer,—in fact one of the great Judges of this state, starting at an early age in the City Court, then in the Supreme Court, and then in the Court of Appeals, the highest Court of a state of ten million people. This gentleman will now address you—the Honorable Samuel Seabury." (Applause.)

#### JUDGE SEABURY'S ADDRESS

"It is a privilege to sit at this board today in honor of Charles O'Connor Hennessy and of Anna George deMille. We delight to honor them not only for what they have done to promote a great cause, but because of their association, in our minds at least, with one whom we recognize as one of the greatest characters that the nineteenth century produced.

"Many years have gone by since Henry George gave his message to the world. In the early days, the days of our youth, we used to believe that that message would soon realize fulfillment. Henry George knew that was not to be the case, and we lived to learn that Henry George was right. The struggle against private monopoly, against economic privilege, against international jealousies, against hate and against ignorance is not a struggle that can be easily won. In the years that have intervened, the truth which Henry George made clear has progressed. It has slowly marched on. But the world has as yet refused to accept the truth to which he gave expression, and has paid a heavy penalty for its failure so to do.

"Henry George taught the lesson of brotherhood among the peoples, and we have seen nations divided into armed camps intent upon bringing about the destruction of one another. Henry George taught that the people of the world must cooperate in the spirit of good-will, and we have seen the peoples priding themselves upon their isolation from one another. Henry George taught the rule of the people, and we have witnessed a very different thing—the rule of great states oppressive of the personalities of their own citizens within them and grasping and blatant toward other states without. Henry George taught that freedom of trade and exchange among peoples led to the welfare and the happiness of all; we have witnessed